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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 2887.0271

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                             |   |                        |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Application of:       | ) |                        |
|                             | ) |                        |
| TETSUYA KUROSAWA ET AL.     | ) |                        |
|                             | ) |                        |
| Application No.: 10/808,298 | ) | Group Art Unit: 1734   |
|                             | ) |                        |
| Filed: March 25, 2004       | ) | Examiner: M. Osele     |
|                             | ) |                        |
| For: SEMICONDUCTOR          | ) | Confirmation No.: 5493 |
| MANUFACTURING APPARATUS     | ) |                        |
| AND METHOD OF               | ) |                        |
| MANUFACTURING               | ) |                        |
| SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE        | ) |                        |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of an Office Action to respond to the Request for Continued Examination filed on October 25, 2006.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the listed U.S. patent documents are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, applicants submit a European Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on September 28, 2006, in a counterpart European Patent Office citing the document and setting forth the relevance thereof. In addition, an English-language abstract is attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

11/15/06

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

Complete if Known

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

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Application Number 10/808,298

Filing Date March 25, 2004

First Named Inventor Tetsuya Kurosawa

Art Unit 1734

Examiner Name M. Osele

Attorney Docket Number 2887.0271

## U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Issue or Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                         |                                                 |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-2001/0049160 A1                       | 12/6/01                                 | Watanabe et al.                                 |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-2001/0029064 A1                       | 10/11/01                                | Odajima et al.                                  |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-6,083,811                             | 7/4/00                                  | Riding et al.                                   |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-5,950,613                             | 9/14/99                                 | Wark et al.                                     |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-5,254,201                             | 10/19/93                                | Konda et al.                                    |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-4,138,304                             | 2/6/79                                  | Gantley                                         |                                                                           |
|                   |                       | US-3,809,050                             | 5/7/74                                  | Chough et al.                                   |                                                                           |
|                   |                       |                                          |                                         |                                                 |                                                                           |
|                   |                       |                                          |                                         |                                                 |                                                                           |
|                   |                       |                                          |                                         |                                                 |                                                                           |
|                   |                       |                                          |                                         |                                                 |                                                                           |

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                         | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                   |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                 |                                                                           |                          |
|                   |                       | EP 1 061 566 A2                                                                 | 12/20/00                       | Canon Kabushiki Kaisha                          |                                                                           |                          |
|                   |                       | JP 11-45934                                                                     | 2/16/99                        | NEC Corporation                                 |                                                                           | Abstract                 |
|                   |                       | EP 0 488 722 A1                                                                 | 6/3/92                         | Canon Kabushiki Kaisha                          |                                                                           |                          |
|                   |                       |                                                                                 |                                |                                                 |                                                                           |                          |

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                   |                       | European Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on September 28, 2006, for European Patent Application No. 04007409.8                                                                                                                               |                          |
|                   |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |
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|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.